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MUM FIGHTS FOR CENTRES

Andy Ffrench
affrench@nqo.com

A MOTHER-OF-TWO from Banbury is leading her second campaign in three years to save children's centres across Oxfordshire.

Last week it emerged that the county's 44 centres were under threat as part of council restructuring in a bid to save more than £6m.

Centres offer activities for under-fives, but to save money county council leaders are planning to create a single service that would support youngsters up to the age of 19.

The council's cabinet is due to vote on the principle of the changes this week, but a public consultation period will not begin until September.

Jill Huish, who uses the children's centre in Britannia Road, Banbury, said she would now take a lead role in trying to thwart the proposals.

Her aim is to revive a previous campaign to save the network of county centres.

Former chef Ms Huish, 33, who has a three-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter, Aurora Holton, said: "Focusing on children from birth to five is vital.

"If the children's centres close, there will be an enormous range of services that will be lost and I do not want to see that happen.

"Women can get help if they are experiencing domestic violence and there are courses for families needing help with budgeting.

"Some people need help just to figure out how to pay the rent or get through the riddles of the benefits system.

"There are drop-in clinics and family learning courses so that parents are informed about how their children are being taught at school so that they can help with their children's homework.

"A team of campaigners will be putting together a petition with both a paper version and an online one available for supporters. The council needs to give people a proper chance to be consulted on these proposals, and legally it can not go ahead until the consultation period is finished."

The council's cabinet member for children and families, Melinda Tilley, said it was "heartbreaking" for cabinet members to be faced with cutting children's centres.

She added: "I don't get up in the morning and think 'who can I stick it to today' but it is so difficult to find these savings.

Centres campaigner Jill Huish, pictured at the one she attends with daughter Aurora

"The council's revenue support grant has been cut by about 40 per cent over the past five years.

"The consultation could extend beyond Christmas. We want to give everyone a chance to have their say and, in the meantime, we will reach out to all our partners, including schools and organisations in the voluntary sector, running services for us, to see what they can do."

Ms Huish is urging people to join the Facebook group Save Our Children's Centres: Oxfordshire.

A previous proposal to close children's centres in 2013 was scrapped after 15,000 people and most of the county's MPs objected.

A cross-party panel at the council has conducted the first major review of centres since they were launched a decade ago and said centres should be prioritised on local need, as well as on location.

Closures have not been ruled out,and there could be job losses among more than 430 staff. The council wants to reduce its £16m budget for children's centres and early intervention hubs by 2018 as part of £284m planned savings.

Labour's Oxford East MP, Andrew Smith, has described the proposed changes as a "false economy."

Nicola Blackwood, the Conservative MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, said she would fight to ensure that support for Oxfordshire's children's centres was continued by the local authority.

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Leaders to meet

OXON: Leaders of Oxfordshire's main councils will discuss strategic issues, including housebuilding and transport schemes.

The Oxfordshire Growth Board, comprised of Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse district councils, meets today.

The meeting, at West Oxfordshire District Council's offices in New Yatt Road, Witney, starts at 2pm.

Gulliver's boost

BANBURY: An iconic book based on headstones in a Banbury graveyard has been placed top of Eton College's list of books for pupils to read.

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift was written after the author saw headstones in St Mary's churchyard in Banbury engraved with the name Gulliver.

The list of books was put together by Eton school's headmaster Tony Little as part of a list all 'bright boys' should read.

Cadets' target

BANBURY: A series of fundraising efforts by the Friends of Banbury Sea Cadets group has now raised a total of £2,877 to help the group.

The Sea Cadets, based in Bridge Wharf, needs to raise about £3,000 for rent and maintenance costs or it could disappear.

Organiser Zoe Lewis said: "We really do have a fantastic group of cadets here."

Campaign group chief speaks out

Chairman of bid to keep emergency facilities waited 19 hours for vital surgery

Hannah Somerville
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THE chairman of a hospital campaign group has spoken out after an agonising 19-hour wait for surgery at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Keith Strangwood, 56, leads Keep the Horton General, which last year fought against the removal of emergency surgery from Banbury's Horton Hospital.

Now he fears surgical procedures at Oxford's hospitals are similarly in dire straits.

At 11am on May 13, Mr Strangwood visited his GP – Horsefair Surgery – with stomach pains and was instructed to go to the John Radcliffe with a suspected strangulated hernia.

He arrived at 12.15pm and was in a hospital bed waiting to be treated by 1.30pm. He said: "I was told the soonest they could do it was 7pm and I signed the surgical consent forms. At 10 o'clock, the surgeon came in and said 'I can't say for definite whether or not we will do it tonight'.

Keith Strangwood had a hernia

"I hadn't eaten since 5pm the night before and said I needed to know, or I was going to collapse."

Eventually, Mr Strangwood was informed that there would be no surgery that night due to two trauma cases. He was finally operated on at 9am the following morning.

Mr Strangwood said his daughter had called the hospital earlier in the morning and was told that only one operating theatre was in use on the Monday night. He said: "For a centre of excellence and a major trauma centre to have one theatre operating is madness.

"We at Keep the Horton General were told that the reasons for removing emergency surgery in Banbury is they have got to go to the centre in the John Radcliffe. One year later, this happens."

Mr Strangwood has only been to hospital twice in his life.

He added: "There's no problem at the John Radcliffe with the staff. They are excellent, but the resources aren't there."

A statement released by Oxford University Hospitals Trust said that there were "many" operating theatres in the trust's hospitals, including several dedicated to emergency lists to keep interruption of elective (planned) surgeries to a minimum.

Greg Sadler, clinical director of surgery at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "All patients who are referred to us as surgical patients are assessed by surgeons.

"Of these, only about 20 per cent of patients will actually require surgery.

"These cases are then prioritised depending on the seriousness of the patient's condition and the urgency of the surgery.

"A person can therefore be considered to be an 'emergency' surgical patient but not require immediate surgery."

Longer police bail is common

ALMOST 900 suspects in Oxfordshire were held on police bail for more than three months last year.

Figures obtained by the *Banbury Cake* showed out of the 4,056 people bailed by Thames Valley Police, 586 remained so for three to six months and 260 from six months to a year.

While the total on bail dropped between 2013 and 2014, from 4,468 to 4,056, 41 were held for more than a year.

Dan Mackay, who collects military relics including old explosive devices, has been on bail for nine months after he was arrested last September on suspicion of theft from heritage sites. He said he had been in "limbo" since being released on bail.

The 36-year-old father-of-two said: "I lost my job as a logistics manager. They said while I was on bail I could end up convicted of anything.

"The police confiscated everything I bought in terms of military items, so I have lost my income from buying and selling on ebay.

Of the 301 people on bail for more than six months in 2014, 91 were released without charge.

Planned changes to police bail were included in the Policing and Criminal Justice Bill announced in the Queen's Speech. Suspects would only be bailed for up to 28 days before being charged, with a three-month extension possible in some cases.

Thames Valley Police spokeswoman Lucy Billen said: "It is difficult to give a general answer to why the number of people on bail has fallen or risen as each separate case has to be considered on individual basis with different factors affecting the timeframe of each investigation."

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A flag is raised at Oxford Castle as High Sheriff Tom Birch Reynardson, Vice Lord Lt John Harwood, county council chairman John Sanders and Col Paul Fish, Commander of the Abingdon Station, pay their respects

Village 'shocked' by woman's rape

Victim was found in churchyard after annual arts and culture festival had finished

Keeley Rodgers
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A COMMUNITY was left shocked after a woman was raped in a churchyard after its arts and culture festival.

Hundreds of revellers packed into the Market Square for a rock concert marking the final night of the 13th eight-day Deddington Festival on Saturday.

However, less than an hour after the bands had finished playing a passer-by spotted a woman lying in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul Church, in Church Street, at about 12.20am on Sunday.

The church's vicar, the Rev Annie Goldthorp, said that the village had been shocked by the vicious attack on the 25-year-old woman, who was believed to have been visiting the village to attend the festival concert.

She said: "We are all very distressed. We had just had the end of the Deddington Festival which is a big party occasion.

"The festival has been going for 13 years, people come from miles around go to it.

"It had been a lovely festival, it's been great, but unfortunately it ended in tragedy with this girl being attacked in the churchyard."

The festival, which began on Friday, June 12, had offered a whole host of activities.

They included a film workshop, jazz music, poetry, art exhibitions, comedy and a history walk.

It had ended with Deddy Rocks, a rock gig in the Market Square with four bands.

Police said a passer-by later spotted the woman in the grounds of the historic church – which dates back to the 13th century – and raised the alarm.

Superintendent Kath Lowe, LPA Commander for Cherwell and West Oxfordshire, said that extra patrols would be deployed to reassure neighbours.

Witnesses should call the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

In a separate incident, a man has been arrested in connection with an alleged incident of indecent exposure in Banbury.

The 56-year-old was arrested on Wednesday last week, on suspicion of exposing himself in Spiceball Park.

He was released on bail until July 21.

Thames Valley Police said a 17-year-old boy had been walking through Spiceball Park at about 2.15pm when he saw a man exposing himself.

The force did not release information about the alleged offence until this week.

Flag flies to salute armed forces

A FLAG has been raised at Oxford Castle to launch the run-up to Armed Forces Day activities throughout the county on Saturday.

The event, which marks the role of the armed forces and their contribution to life in the county, was attended by senior representatives of the military.

In Banbury, the Armed Forces Day highlight will be a Trooping the Colour and freedom ceremony at Whately Hall Hotel.

The privilege of the Freedom of the Town of Banbury will be granted to the town-based 142 Vehicle Squadron, which arrived last year and is based at the Territorial Army barracks in Oxford Road.

The Band of the Irish Guards will come from London to lead the 3.30pm parade from High Street to Horsefair for the ceremony on Saturday.

In the morning, town activities will start with the Mayor's Civic Cadets raising the Armed Forces flag at the town hall.

Stall and military displays will provide entertainment until 3pm, when the area will be cleared for the arrival of the Irish Guards.

The squadron's predecessors at the base, the TA Royal Signals Corps, were granted the freedom and the honour is now being given to the newcomers.

Kieron Mallon, leader of Banbury Town Council and a former Irish guardsman, said: "It is a tremendous honour for the Band of the Irish Guards to come to Banbury. For them to come here on such an important day is something this town can be proud of."

Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council John Sanders said: "It's right the nation should recognise the part the forces play in our day-to-day lives as well as in protecting the country."

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MORE than 50,000 homes and businesses across Oxfordshire have access to access faster fibre broadband through the Better Broadband programme.

The latest communities to get the service include Hornton, Piddington, Sibford Gower, Shutford, Tadmarton, Berinsfield and Great Milton.

The high-speed technology has been made available in parts of Banbury, Faringdon and Temple Cowley, as well as areas of Oxford city centre.

Digital economy minister and Wantage MP Ed Vaizey said: "The digital landscape of Oxford is undergoing a dramatic transformation and I congratulate the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme on having reached more than 50,000 homes and businesses.

"Our nationwide rollout of superfast broadband is reaching 5,000 more premises every day and we're on track to reach 95 per cent of the UK by 2017."

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for business, Nick Carter, added: "It's exciting to realise that 50,000 more homes and businesses can now access the sort of broadband speeds that will improve people's lives immensely.

"This is an important milestone in the programme that the county council has been running for a couple of years."

Better Broadband for Oxfordshire is part of the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme.

When the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme is complete, the percentage of homes and businesses able to access high-speed fibre broadband in Oxfordshire is expected to around 95 per cent, when the figure is combined with that for private sector investments.

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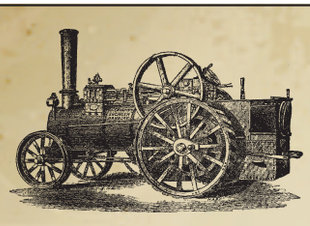

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Council to help fund initiative

A SCHEME to improve Banbury's town centre has been given expansion money by Cherwell District Council.

The council appointed team co-ordinators Neil Wild and Iain Nicholson in 2014 to start the "vitality initiative" project for the town.

The goal was to boost footfall, reduce empty shops, identify gaps in the sort of shops and leisure facilities there are and promote Banbury to prospective new businesses.

For its first year, the number of empty shops was cut from 53 to 45, using the Government's High Street Innovation Fund. Now the council will add its own funding.

Lead member for Banbury Futures and councillor Kieron Mallon said: "Like all town centres, Banbury faces many challenges and it is vital to have a town team working on its behalf. In the first year we saw how the team had a positive impact on things like encouraging new businesses to come into the town."

Developer gives cash to projects

Bovis Homes donates £250 towards two schemes to mark nursery's anniversary

A NURSERY school's 20th birthday project to improve village life in Bodicote has been given a boost from a housing developer.

Saltway Day Nursery, on White Post Road, was given £250 from Bovis Homes to put towards two schemes.

Some of the cash will be used to cover the cost of a flowerbed the nursery helped plant by Bodicote Flyover Farm Shop, while anything left over will be put towards a defibrillator.

The nursery helped sow seeds at the flowerbed last month and has promised to tend it as the seasons roll by.

It has now set a target of installing a new £2,000 defibrillator at the end of this year.

Nursery principal Kate O'Connor said: "To celebrate our 20th year we wanted to get involved in doing something positive and giving something back to the local community.

"These are two very worthy local causes and we are really grateful to Bovis Homes for supporting us in bringing them to fruition.

"We have been here 20 years and we do not need to advertise, but I just wanted it to become more part of the community and do extra things.

"We hope to get the defibrillator by the end of the year and we have started fundraising.

"We have a big fun day coming up and we will be putting money from that into the projects."

Julie Hartshorne, Bovis Homes' area sales manager, said the investment was a signal of their commitment to local communities.

She said: "We are extremely proud to be backing these two fantastic projects and providing support to the area."

Things are blossoming in Bodicote after the nursery pupils helped sow seeds of change

Consultation over buses begins

A PUBLIC consultation on whether all 105 of the county's subsidised bus routes should lose the extra money they receive from the county council has begun.

The authority plans to review subsidies to cut £2.3m, as part of £6.3m transport savings up to 2018.

Councillors have decided to consult the public. Bus companies say some services are only partly subsidised. The consultation ends on September 14.

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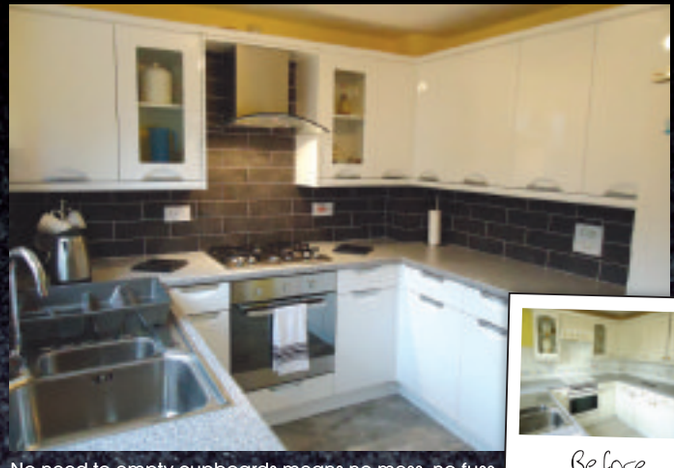

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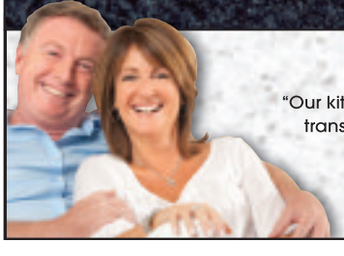

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New machine to help save hearts

BANBURY Lions have been crowned charity of the year after hitting their £2,000 target for a new defibrillator.

In October last year the Lions set out to raise enough for a defibrillator in Banbury Market Place, which is now set to be installed within the next few weeks.

In light of their success, law firm Spratt Endicott, which has offices in Banbury and Bicester, has chosen the Lions as their charity of the year.

The accolade means the solicitors will help the club to raise money for a second defibrillator, the funds standing at £100.

President of Banbury Lions Ian Wilson said: "I had spoken to someone from there and they asked if they would mind putting our name forward and when they voted for us I was over the moon.

"These defibrillators can save lives and we are delighted to have the backing of such a well respected company as Spratt Endicott."

In April, it was reported in the *Banbury Cake* that the Banbury Lions had raised £1,000 at a concert at Marlborough Road Church after selling all 200 tickets at £5.

Employees at Spratt Endicott will spend the next 12 months raising money for the Lions to pursue a new defibrillator.

Senior partner at the law firm John Spratt said: "The Banbury Lions defibrillator appeal will provide an important lifeline for people living in and visiting Banbury town centre.

"We are committed to doing our part and know our staff will be eager to raise as much money as possible."

Pupils paint pictures and set sculptures for a display of their finest talents

Daisy Byrne looks at Hannah Bon's textile work, with her own up behind her on the gallery's walls

ARTS students hosted a pop-up shop in Banbury to celebrate their work after finishing the academic year.

The Banbury and Bicester College students invited people into their shop in Castle Quay shopping centre to look at their exhibitions and buy some of their work.

Some of the work on display featured replica guitars and banjos.

Creative arts student Penny Maltby, who showed off a work called *Sewing Notions*, said: "The pop-up shop was really good.

"We were saying that we wish we were there for longer. It's been really buys and we have had a very good response from the local people."

The exhibition has been running at Castle Quay since May 16 and more than 1,500 people have visited it and taken part in activities.

Gemma Corney, 22, another student exhibiting and selling their work, said: "I took part in this showcase for the first time last year and it was the first time that I really saw myself as an artist.

"You get used to your family and friends saying they like your work, but to have members of the public appreciating it and actually buying your stuff is really valuable.

"I have learned what worked last year, and have prepared some more original prints this year that will hopefully sell well.

"Being in a venue like this means that so many more people get to see what we have done. It is great exposure."

Art foundation course student Daisy Byrne, 19, looks up at some of the replica guitars and a banjo created by Sophie McCammond

Artist Penny Maltby with her piece

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School hailed as 'good' as new changes kick in

Report details how the academy has improved across all categories

PUPILS and staff at Hanwell Fields Community School are celebrating being judged good in all categories in a recent Ofsted report.

Following a two-day inspection at the Banbury school last month, the report found "strong evidence that the academy is improving rapidly".

Head teacher Harry Wall said: "The whole school community is thrilled with this report which recognises all the fantastic work under way at Hanwell Fields."

The report described Ms Wall as "dedicated", adding that her highly ambitious leadership, which paid close attention to detail, ensured "no stone is left unturned".

Inspectors were particularly impressed with the quality of teaching, stating that rapid improvements have led to "high achievement for pupils".

When assessing the Early Years Provision, the report said that children "get off to a good start in the early years because teaching is rightly focused on securing essential skills".

In terms of pupil behaviour, Ofsted described the pupils as caring and encouraging.

In addition, the report stated that staff morale was high and that a "collaborative, positive team spirit pervades all aspects of the academy's work".

The improvements to teaching were put down to the improved training the teachers were now receiving.

During their visit, inspectors also spoke to a number of parents who were "overwhelmingly positive and appreciative of the detailed information they receive".

They told inspectors that they felt fully involved with their children's learning.

Governors were also said to "offer robust challenge and good levels of support".

Hanwell children Bonnie Trower, Miles Dyer, Adriana Victor and Nicholas Parish

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Winner is driving top firm forwards

Honours go to a charity, TV reality show winner, crocodile zoo and law firm's head as Oxfordshire Business Awards are handed out during glittering celebration night

Business Person of the Year Shaun Jardine, of Brethertons, picks up his award, watched by Toby Anstis

Alex Regan
aregan@nqo.com

MORE than 500 business leaders met for a night of celebration at the Oxfordshire Business Awards, as a Banbury solicitor was named Person of the Year.

The whole spectrum of trade and commerce, from refuse firms to crocodile sanctuaries, met to celebrate "another wonderful year."

The chief executive of law firm Brethertons, Shaun Jardine – who is based in its Banbury office in Middleton Road – was named Person of the Year for his work at the practice, and for being a "serial opportunist".

Mr Jardine said: "This award is more about the incredible staff and workforce we have in Oxfordshire.

"I say this to many people, [but] I'm only driving the car; the people working at Brethertons are the machine."

Awards in 15 categories were announced by broadcaster Toby Anstis.

Paul Lowe, chairman of the organising committee and operations director at Darbys solicitors, said: "It's just great to celebrate Oxfordshire businesses. It shows how vibrant and thriving the businesses really are."

Highlights included:

- **Cultural Events and Tourism: Crocodiles of the World**
  The UK's only crocodile zoo, in Brize Norton, set up four years ago by Shaun Foggett
- **Marketing Excellence: Fostering and Adoption, Oxfordshire County Council**
  The agency was praised for its work to "open up people's minds to the idea that they can adopt."
- **Apprenticeship and Business of the Year: Darke and Taylor**
  The electrical contractor, of Kidlington, employs more than 400 apprentices.
- **Innovation Award: Cobalt Light Systems, Milton Park**
- **Young Business Person and Small Business: Lee McQueen and Raw Talent Academy**
  The victor said: "Genuinely, this means more to me than winning *The Apprentice*."
- **Community Award: Yellow Submarine, autism and learning disability charity**
- **New Business: Fidelis Market Consultants, foreign exchange**
- **Large Business: Grundon Waste Management, Benson**
- **Digital Innovation: Hunts, print, marketing and design**
- **Export: Zinc Ahead, marketing**
- **Retail: Burford Garden Centre**
- **Employer: Soha Housing, managing social housing**

Winner of the apprenticeships award, contractor Darke & Taylor

Maria White, from Fostering and Adoption at the county council

Special exercise programme for older people with limited mobility

NEW seated exercise classes aimed at people with limited mobility are being launched in Banbury this week.

Cherwell District Council is starting the classes as part of the Go Active scheme to increase sporting opportunities in the area.

They are aimed to appeal to older people, those with limited mobility or those looking for a gentle way to increase their fitness.

Councillor George Reynolds, Cherwell's deputy leader, said: "We recognise that not everyone is in a position to run for miles on a treadmill or spend hours lifting weights but that shouldn't mean their options to exercise are halted or reduced.

"They are not high intensity or designed to push people to their limits, but instead will ease people in gently to give them a work-out which won't burn them out."

The first session will take place on Thursday at The Mill in Banbury from 3pm to 4pm.

They will run weekly thereafter.

Each session will cost £2 per person and the course lasts for six weeks.

For more information or to book a place call Ildiko Dorko on 07933 951794.

Alternatively e-mail csildi67@googlemail.com

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PM lends support to mental health charity's fundraiser

DAVID Cameron has given his support to a fundraising event which will help people with mental health difficulties in North Oxfordshire.

Charity Restore will host an auction and dinner at Banbury Cricket Club on July 24, when a bottle of House of Commons whisky, signed by the PM, will be one of the lots.

Other items on offer will include work signed by *Inspector Morse* writer Colin Dexter, a football signed by Manchester United players and a trip to Gordon Ramsay's London hotel, along with signed Liverpool FC and England cricket team photographs and a personalised oil painting created by artist Hayley Morgan. There will also be a live blues band and a buffet.

Money generated on the night will support Restore's North Oxfordshire Recovery Group.

Jacqui Vincent-Potter, who is one of the event organisers, said she now worked at the Manzil Way charity as an administrator, after using its services.

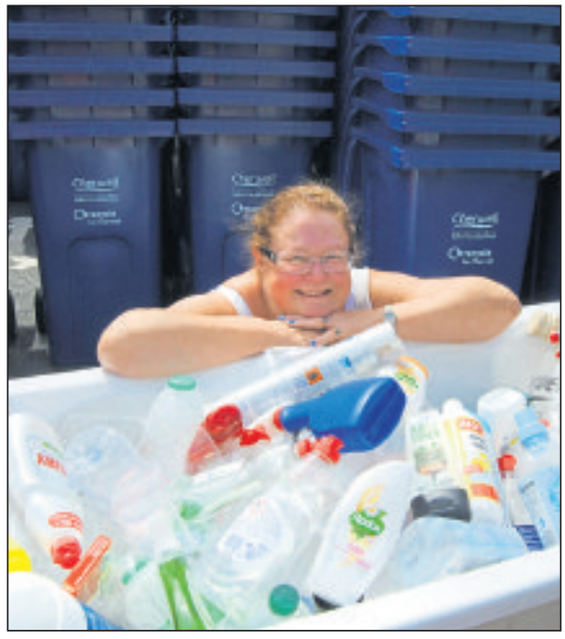
She said: "I wanted to raise funds for a charity that saved my life. It gave me confidence, skills; I learned to cope with my anxieties."

The auction night was originally scheduled for February, but had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. It starts at 6pm.

Council will give tips on recycling

Green team set to inform residents on what bins old bathroom items go in

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com



Cherwell's lead council member for clean and green, Debbie Pickford

ADVICE on bathroom recycling is on tap for residents during next week's National Recycling Week.

Cherwell District Council's green team have been hosting events on how to recycle more items from the home's smallest room since Monday and the drive continues until Sunday.

Events have been scheduled for Banbury, Kidlington and Bicester and include giveaways for visitors.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for clean and green Debbie Pickford said: "The bathroom is one of the key rooms in the house where the majority of items can be recycled and yet many products still end up in the green bin.

"Lots of people are still unaware that aerosols such as deodorants, hairsprays and air fresheners can go in the blue bin, as can cleaning bottles and toothpaste boxes.

"During National Recycle Week, our officers will be getting out and about across the district to promote this message in person and offer people the chance to win themselves some goodies or take advantage of promotions."

On Thursday, from 10am to 2pm, the first recycling roadshow will be held in Banbury Market Place. The team will then move on to Kidlington Market Place on Friday, from 10am to 2pm.

On Saturday, the green team will be at Bicester Carnival in Pingle Field from noon to 5pm, along with the Banbury Community Action Group event in Banbury Market Place from 10am to 2pm.

The events will give out information on the common items that can be recycled from your bathrooms and on hand for questions.

There will also be giveaways on social media including daily quizzes and guess the amount of recyclable products in a bath competition.

Correct entries will be put into a prize draw for a £30 voucher for Bicester Green upcycling organisation and five runners-up will get a blue recycle bin.

OUTDOOR CIRCUIT SESSIONS

NEW outdoor circuit sessions, designed to help people lose weight and tone up have been launched in Banbury.

As part of its Go Active fitness drive, Cherwell District Council will run activities from 8pm to 9pm on Mondays at North Oxfordshire Academy. Each session is £3.50.

Places must be booked with Rosie Clark on 07774 524780.

Warning over bonfires

PEOPLE are being warned not to throw aerosols or containers with flammable liquid or gas on to bonfires.

Banbury fire station watch manager Mark O'Connor said: "This is the time of year when people have a clear-out.

"It is very important to make sure you know what is in boxes before burning them. Even one aerosol can cause a significant explosion and cause severe injury.

"We would also warn people not to start bonfires or barbecues with petrol or other similar, highly volatile substances as this can lead to injury or fire damage."

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Blood donor surge 'just the beginning'

Oxford Donor Centre manager delighted by upturn in donations

OXFORDSHIRE has seen a boost in blood donors following a campaign to get people signing up to help save lives across the county's hospitals.

Almost 500 people in the county have registered to give blood compared to 160 in the same period last year as part of National Blood Donor week.

The campaign came after NHS Blood and Transplant, which operates blood donation services across Oxfordshire, revealed 2,000 more donors were required to help save lives.

Four of the county's busiest hospitals use more than 26,000 pints of blood a year.

Gayle Franklin, manager of the Oxford Donor Centre, welcomed the surge .

She said: "This is definitely just the beginning for us.

Blood groups are highlighted

"We are always in need to increase the number of donors because they decrease naturally.

"It's really fantastic that in this short space of time, the numbers have increased.

"It's really nice to know that communities are right behind us.

"Oxfordshire is supporting a great cause that is really important to saving people's lives."

One of the county's oldest blood donors Karin Oldham said it was "excellent" that more people were coming forward to sign up and urged more to join.

Mrs Oldham has donated more for more than 50 years and has given the equivalent of 85 pints of blood.

The 77-year-old from Marston added: "There are so many diseases these days that do need blood.

"I think even if you have got an ordinary blood group it means that there are a lot of people with that blood type who may need that blood.

"I started donating because I just thought it was a good thing to do and I was fit and healthy.

"It's nothing to be afraid of."

It is hoped from the campaign that Oxfordshire will provide one per cent of the 204,000 new donors needed nationwide.

During National Blood Week Abingdon resident Anya Muir Wood urged people to sign up.

The 23-year-old received whole blood and platelet transfusions when she was treated for a cancerous tumour when she was 18.

The Cambridge University graduate said: "It's fantastic that more people are signing up.

"I hope people follow through and give blood.

"A lot of my friends have signed up, one of them is planning on taking his girlfriend on a date to give blood."

The former St Helen and St Katherine School student added: "It's such an easy thing to do and you really get such a good feeling for doing it."

Ms Franklin added the blood donor centre had seen more people coming through its doors.

She said: "I think the more we can publicise the reasons why you need to donate blood the better.

"Having National Blood Week has put it in the forefronts of people's minds and it has made a real difference.

"Having that real contact with people means they will come along and help."

Donor centre manager Gayle Franklin speaks with donor Simon Frazer at the John Radcliffe blood centre as the drive starts

Volunteers getting blood flowing round county through the night

DURING weekdays and working hours NHS Blood and Transplant transport thousands of litres of blood across the country every week.

But during the evenings volunteer motorcyclists will answer emergency calls and transport blood to critically ill patients across the region.

More than 100 volunteers from the Thames Valley region ensure that someone is always on call to deliver blood to emergencies.

Products from the Oxford Blood Bank can be driven to areas as far as Bristol by blood bikers.

SERV Blood Bikers, which serves Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Berkshire, has been running since 1981.

Kennington resident Terry Haynes has been riding with Blood Bikers for four years.

The 54-year-old said: "I was watching a film on Channel 4 and one of those Honda adverts came on.

Blood bikers Simon Gamble, Terry Haynes and Ian Rowe

"One of the motorbikes featured was a blood bike, and I thought to myself it would be a great idea to get involved."

After doing an advanced motorist course the Oxford Bus Company bus driver began delivering blood to hospitals which reserves were depleted.

To be a blood biker you have to be "on-call" between the hours of 10pm and 7am on a weekday, or anytime over the weekend.

The father-of-one volunteers at least 12 times a year and also raises money for the registered charity.

He added: "Blood Bikers get no funding from the government or the NHS, so it's important for us to raise money. We're all volunteers and doing it because we love it. "

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

TODAY (WEDNESDAY)

Aspects of Some World Religions: St Nicolas' Church, Market Place, Abingdon. *Judaism Today* by Penny Faust. 12.30pm. Free but donations are welcome. 01235 536343.

Blackthorn car boot sale: Blackthorn car boot sale, Bicester to Thame road, B4100. Every Sunday & Wednesday. 10am. Buyers free. 07786 607 097.

Hailey scarecrows: Fictional Villains theme. Until Sunday, June 28. There is a competition to identify the most scarecrows and you can vote for the best scarecrow. Free maps and competition forms available from Lamb & Flag or church. Free entry. 01993 899125.

Keep on Moving (55+): Grove Village Hall, Main Street, Grove. A chance for people of all abilities to engage in an art form that is bot physically and mentally stimulating. 10.30am. £24 for four-week blocks – £6.50 individual class. 07935 701148.

Kelmscott Craft Fair & Morris Memorial Hall Exhibition: Morris Memorial Hall, Kelmscott. Kelmscott craft fairs return for a seventh consecutive season with the emphasis as always on original, hand crafted goods. Visit village website kelmscott.org.uk. Noon. Free. 01367 253103.

Ramblers Walk: Town Car Park, Hill Road, Watlington. 10.30am. SU691944, 5.5-mile circular walk via Christmas Common, no pub arranged. 01865 433492.

Singing For Fun: Congregational Church, Welch Way, Witney. A lively and sociable non-performing morning singing group. 10.15am. £3. Drop-in any time. 07969 522 368.

Strength & Flexibility: Grove Village Hall, Main Street, Grove. 9.30am. £24 for four-week blocks – £6.50 individual class. 07935 701 148.

Think. Grow. Eat. A talk on permaculture: Lower Farm, Lower End, Ramsden. Caroline Aitken lives on a smallholding in Dartmoor with her husband and son, teaches permaculture courses and is co-author of Food From Your Forest Garden with Martin Crawford. Followed by a summer BBQ. Book online: www.wychwoodproject.org/cms/content/events. 6:30pm. £15. 01865 815420.

Walking Football: Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Bowmont Water, Didcot. Walking Football is a slower paced version of the game. To take part people simply can turn up with trainers, sports/appropriate clothing and a drink. Free tea & coffee afterwards. The first 10 weeks are led by an FA-qualified coach.

Yoga class: The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. Gentle, flowing yoga to help you stretch, tone, relax and de-stress. 6pm. 07917 453 224.

TOMORROW

Sequence & Ballroom Dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Learn to dance. Teaching from 7.30-8.45pm. Practise what you have learnt until 10.30pm. £2. 01993 811473.

Sequence Dance Club (weekly): Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. Between Abingdon & Steventon. Call Brian for more details. 7pm. Nominal. 01235 531701.

The Versions of Us: An Evening with Laura Barnett: Mostly Books, Stert Street, Abingdon. One of the hottest debut novelists of the year, Laura Barnett, will be talking about her hugely anticipated debut novel that poses the question 'what if?' in a truly original way. 7.30pm. £5. 01235 525880.

Witney Folk Dance Group: Madley Park Hall, Northfield Farm Lane, Witney. Our aim is to learn and enjoy English country dance. No partner needed. Beginners and experienced dancers welcomed. 8pm. £3, includes coffee and raffle. 01993 705961.

FRIDAY

Creative Writing Half-Day Woodland Workshop for Beginners: The Woods, Clue Hill Farm, Brill. With local writer Jan Harvey. Suitable for anyone who would like to be introduced to writing techniques from someone who has been writing in one way or another for most of her life. Price includes all materials, drinks, homemade cakes and biscuits. See creativegreen.co.uk. 9.30am. £49.50. 07831 222 197.

SATURDAY

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Bicester, Pingle Field. Bicester Carnival SP579222. For further information contact Margaret Barker. Registered Assistance Dogs only. Bus friendly. 01869 600434. 9.30am.

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Steeple Claydon, Fountain Inn PH. SP697272, Steeple Claydon. A moderate 6.5 miles circular walk to Kings Bridge, Lower Farm and Hillesden. Dogs on leads please. Richard Savory 01280 702113. 10am.

Cystic Fibrosis family fun day and 6-side football and craft stalls: Edmunds Park, Didcot. BBQ and bar with many more activities for the family. 10am. £5 per player maximum 9 per team. 07539 207 048.

Freeland open gardens: Freeland. 27 venues in the village; cream teas, art and craft exhibition, entertainment, cake stall, raffle, quiz, bouncy castle, gifts and cards for sale. 1pm. Adults £4. 01993 882209.

Garden party at Stonehill: Stonehill House, off Drayton Road, Abingdon. Charity garden party and open day for all ages with a middle eastern theme: music, food, stalls and English tea & cakes in old barn with Radcliffe Chamber Group. To benefit Medical Aid for Palestinians and Abingdon Passion Play 2016. 2pm. £4.

Kirtlington Village Fete, Dog Show & Fun Run 2015: Kirtlington Village Hall & Sports Field, South Green, Kirtlington. annual summer fete with Adult 6k Fun Run @ 12.30pm, Children's 1km Fun Run @ 12.45pm & Dog Show.12.30pm. By programme £1 – children free. 01869 351537.

Local Craft Market: Jubilee Park Hall, Barley Close, Bloxham. Pop-up craft market supporting local crafters and artisans selling quality local crafts. There will be a tea room selling refreshments including homemade cakes as well as a tombola stall in aid of Bloxham C of E Primary School. 11am. Free entry.

Table-Top and Jumble Sale: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, near Wallingford. From 11 am. Varied stalls, good parking and refreshments. Setting up for sellers from 10am. Pitches available from £6 (tables supplied), booking recommended. Buyers entry 50p, no buyers before 11am please. For more details or to book a pitch please call 01491 833938 or go to donkeyrescue.org.uk

Witney & District Swimming Club 40th Anniversary Celebrations: Witney Rugby Club, Hailey. Past and present members of Witney & District Swimming Club 40th anniversary celebrations. 4-11pm. By ticket only. Contact swimlindaking@gmail.com or chantalclavaudwdsc@gmail.com

SUNDAY

Aston Rowant Fete: Aston Rowant Green. 12pm. Free. 07967 804140.

Combe Summer Fete: Combe Recreation Ground, Park Road, Combe. 12-3pm. Free entry. 07977 228756.

Ramblers walk: Wheatley, Car park at rear of King & Queen PH, Wheatley. Leisurely 6-mile walk to Waterperry (optional coffee stop). 10am. 01865 874300.

Walk with Second Lease: Woodford Way Car Park, Woodford Way, Witney. There are two walks on offer today with Second Lease. The first is a 8.5-mile walk taking in Eynsham, South Leigh & Stanton Harcourt. The second is a 3.5-mile walk – Clanfield/Alverscot circular. For both walks we meet at Woodford Way Car Park, Witney, for car sharing leaving at 9.30am. Please bring a drink with you and for the longer walk a packed lunch. 9.30am. 01993 702716.

MONDAY

Abingdon Scottish Country Dance Club: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. 8pm. £2. 01235 528154.

Active Forever: The Park Club Milton, 17 Croft Drive, Milton Park. Sport and social session for over-60s. Weekly sessions on a Monday morning, 10-11.30am. Come along and try different activities on offer – short tennis, badminton, bowls, curling and senior 01235 206777.

Women's Self-Defence Class: The Pavilion, Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough. Learn how to fend off an attacker, keep fit, and learn useful and easy techniques that will keep you safe. Every Monday from 8-9pm, mother and daughter BOGOF offer. Under the guidance of 3rd Dan Black Belt Sensei Steve Rhodes, who has been training in martial arts for 26 years. 07834 022 463.

Yoga class: Ambrosden Village Hall, Merton Road Ambrosden, near Bicester. Gentle flowing yoga to help you stretch, tone, relax and de-stress. 6.15pm. 07917 453 224.

TUESDAY

Active Forever: The Park Club, 17 Croft Drive, Milton Park, near Abingdon. Sport and social club for over-60s. Bowls, badminton, short tennis & curling. Free tea/coffee afterwards and a free swim on your first visit. 10am. £2 (non-members), free (members). 01235 206777.

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Great Tew, Car park SP395293. 10am. A moderate 10-mile circular walk via South Newington and Barford St Michael. Picnic lunch. Dogs on leads please. Mary Gough 07939 826 412.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Grassland Plants: Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. 7pm. Free. 01865 407792.

Pregnancy Yoga (pre-natal): The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. Special pregnancy yoga class. You can attend from week 14 of your pregnancy. Ease backache, learn breathing techniques, stretch and relax. 9.30am. 07917 453 224.

Tea Dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Enjoy a dance and a chat with a friendly crowd. Entrance includes tea & cake. 2pm. £2. 01993 811473.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Theatre

TODAY-SATURDAY

Dorchester Village Hall, Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames: *Man of The Moment* by Alan Ayckbourn. 7.45pm. A glistening pool in the garden of a Spanish villa is the setting for the tale of a hero and a villain with even a damsel in distress. It is no fairytale, but a funny and sometimes thought-provoking story where nothing is quite as it seems. £8 Wednesday, June 24, then £10 Thur-Sat. 01865 340792.

FRIDAY

Cornerstone, 25 Station Road, Didcot: *The Beaux Stratagem*. 7.30pm. The Lichfield stagecoach is a 'comin' on over the hill, laden with gallants and garters intent on fine females and their fortunes. But are they prepared for cross-dressing Irish priests, lardy landlords and scheming servants? George Farquar knits together sub plots in an 18th-century *One Man Two Governors*. All is not as it seems in one of the finest Restoration comedies of the age. £15, £13.50 (concs) £54 (family ticket). 01235 515144.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Carterton Community College, Upavon Way: *Murder Me Always*. A fun-filled murder mystery evening. 7.30pm. Acting Community Thingumybogs are proud to present their spring production, by Lee Mueller. The Murder Mystery Murderer seems to have struck again. Try to solve the evening's crime. Will you be able to guess whodunit? 7.30pm. £8. 01993 212911.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Kennington Village Centre, Kennington Road: *Let's all go to the Music Hall – Where the Wild West meets the East End!* 8pm. Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society presents. Join us for an exuberant and entertaining performance of well-known and not so well-known songs, monologues and sketches. Performers will be accompanied by the house band. Dress up if you wish. Kennington Village Centre. Friday 8pm, Saturday 2pm & 7.30pm, and Sunday 2pm. Tickets £8 adults £6 concessions, call Kay in the box office on 01865 739025. £8 adults £6 concessions.

TUESDAY

Cornerstone, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Youth Theatre Showcase. 7pm. Cornerstone runs youth theatre classes for young people aged 6 to 18, who work hard throughout the year developing their skills and techniques in making theatre. This evening they will perform work that they have written and devised together, based on the theme of modern fairytales. Expect to see a range of different dramatic approaches and to get some quirky new perspectives on old favourites. £3, £2 (concs). 01235 515 144.

Music

TOMORROW

Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Lunchtime Recital. 12.30pm. A Celebration of June, with Sarah Haigh, soprano, Robert Forbes, tenor, Annabel Molyneaux, mezzo-soprano, Peter Cowdrey, piano, Paul Molyneaux, poetry. Free admission. 01993 702296.

FRIDAY

Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton: Country & Western Dance. 8.30pm. Carterton Country Music Club – Dancing to Montana Country Band, tickets from club bar or call 01993 850682 for further information. £6. 01993 850682.

The Angel, Market Square, Witney: Doug & Dan. 9pm. Making their debut at this popular music venue with the very best in rock and pop. Free entry. 01993 703238.

The Northcourt, Abingdon United, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: *Never The Bride*. 7.30pm. £10 advance £12 on the night.

Witney Congregational Church, Welch Way, Witney: Gilbert and Sullivan: *Iolanthe*. 7.30pm. Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform a concert version. Free with collection for Christian Aid. 01865 361431.

SATURDAY

Cornerstone, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Abingdon Concert Band: Proms Extravaganza. 7.30pm. Composer Tom Davoren has quickly developed an international reputation as an exciting brass-wind composer. Abingdon Concert Band and guest trumpet soloist Richard Bates present the world premiere of Tom's latest piece as part of a rousing programme including *O Magnum Mysterium*, Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto*, *Toccata* and Proms favourites. £15, £10 (concs). 01235 515144.

Littlebury Hotel, Kings End, Bicester: The Summits. 9pm. Male duo performing a mixture of covers from 60s to present. Free entry. 07941416722.

Royal British Legion, Spring Road, Abingdon: Swingtime Big Band. 8.45pm. This is a Big Swing band that plays all the old time war songs such as Glenn Miller. Free entry, non members welcome on the night. 01235 554418.

Sparsholt Parish Church, Watery Lane, Wantage: Wantage Choral Society Summer Concert. 7.30pm. World Premiere of their conductor Paul Burke's *Didcot Haiku* based on poems written on travelling through Didcot Station, together with Songs and Cries of London Town by the society's president, Bob Chilcott. £10, £8 in advance, under-16s free. 01235 798349.

The Fox, Enstone Road, Middle Barton: Laurence Live. 9pm. Motown to modern songs from the local vocal/keyboard player and guitarist. Free.

The Vale and Downland Museum, Church Street, Wantage: Pandemonium. 10.30am. Foot-tapping tunes, gentle airs, chorus songs & lots of audience participation, with Wantage's very own folk band Pandemonium. Come along and join in the fun over a cup of coffee. Traditional music played on melodeon, concertina, guitar, mandolin, flute, bodhran & recorder. Free.

Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon: Gilbert and Sullivan: *Iolanthe*. 7.30pm. Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform a concert version. Free with collection for church charity. 01865 361431.

SUNDAY

St Helen's Church, Church Lane, Dry Sandford: Summer Evening's Concert. 7pm. With Graham Howell, long-time Director of Music at Cothill House and St Helen's Church Dry Sandford organist, will be performing a special organ recital entitled Anything But Organ Music. Free. Retiring collection.

The Band Hall, Tugwell Field, Reading Road, Wantage: Brass on the Grass Concerts 2015. 4pm. Wantage Silver Concert Brass is proud to present another of the popular Brass on the Grass Field Concerts. Come along and enjoy a summer's afternoon of entertainment and enjoyment. BBQ, cream teas and bar available. Some seating provided but you are welcome to bring your own chairs. Retiring collection. 01235 763572.

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7 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£4,886	£135.72	£4,886
8 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£5,584	£155.11	£5,584
9 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£6,282	£174.50	£6,282
10 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£6,980	£193.88	£6,980

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5 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£2,990	£62.77	£3,766.20
6 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£3,588	£75.32	£4,519.20
7 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£4,186	£87.87	£5,272.20
8 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£4,784	£100.43	£6,025.80
9 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£5,382	£112.98	£6,788.80
10 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£5,980	£125.53	£7,531.80

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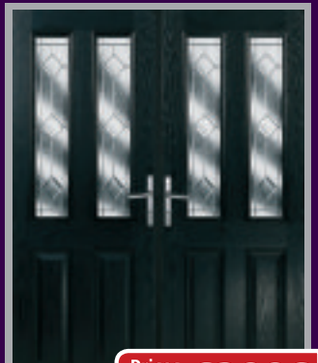

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Body count grows as teen looks for love in Wild West

Slow West **(15) A Western/Romance, starring Kodi Smit-McPhee, Michael Fassbender, Ben Mendelsohn, Caren Pistorius, Rory McCann and Alex Macqueen. Director: John Maclean.**

JOHN Maclean, one-time DJ and sampler with the Beta Band, makes an impressive feature film directorial debut with this stylish western shot on location in New Zealand.

Confidently abiding by the conventions of the genre, *Slow West* is a classic coming of age story, which positions a resourceful young woman at the heart of the blood-spattered action.

"Wearing a dress don't make her a lady," observes one grizzled character, reminding us that appearances can be deceptive in 1870s Colorado.

This no place for the weak or demure.

A moment's hesitation to pull a trigger separates the living and the dead, and no one sheds a tear when you're gone because they are too busy ransacking your pockets.

Maclean's lean script, which gallops to 83 minutes, won't leave audiences saddle sore and the writer-director orchestrates shoot outs that culminate in a double-digit body count.

In it, fresh-faced 17-year-old Jay Cavendish (Kodi Smit-McPhee) journeys "from the cold shoulder of Scotland to the baking heart of America to find his love."

In flashbacks we discover that the young man, son of a landowner (Alex Macqueen), pursued a Highland fling with peasant's daughter Rose Ross (Caren Pistorius).

She tried in vain to douse Jay's ardour, informing him, "You're the little brother I never had."

Rose and her father (Rory McCann) departed for foreign climes and now lovesick whelp Jay is on their trail, determined to woo the object of his unrequited affections.

Jay is poorly equipped to survive the brutality of the frontier west, where cigar-chewing outlaws like Payne (Ben Mendelsohn) and his posse roam with murderous intent.

The teenager crosses paths with a world-weary bounty hunter called Silas Selleck (Michael Fassbender), who proposes to chaperone Jay for a fee.

The two loners form a tender yet fragile bond as they trot through a series of misadventures.

"There's more to life than just surviving," philosophises Jay, as Silas shaves his almost hairless chin with a knife.

"Yeah, there's dying," growls the gunslinger, who has neglected to tell Jay that his beloved Rose and her old man are wanted dead or alive for 2,000 US dollars.

Slow West is a compelling portrait of an era, as seen through the eyes of a jack rabbit, who has strayed into a den of wolves.

Smit-McPhee brings an appealing innocence to his stargazing dreamer, who learns harsh lessons about placing trust in strangers.

In stark contrast, Fassbender swaggers with ominous intent, shrouding his character in ambiguity so we are never entirely sure of his allegiances until a barnstorming final reckoning.

The actors are an exceedingly odd couple, yet somehow the mismatch works, set against the majestic locations captured in their sprawling glory by Irish cinematographer Robbie Ryan.

Michael Fassbender's world-weary bounty hunter, Silas Selleck, – shown here out to do a spot of shopping – decides to try his hand as a chaperone to a love-struck and extremely determined Scottish teenage boy who is on the trail of a Highlands peasant girl making her way to the unfamiliar lands of American frontier territory with her father

Also showing . . .
Minions **(U)**

NO reviews were available when the *Banbury Cake* went to press but this latest adventure for the plucky sidekicks from *Despicable Me* is sure to find an audience this weekend.

The Minions have always gravitated towards the most despicable master they can find including Count Dracula and Napoleon. Unfortunately, such masters die prematurely at the hands of their hench-creatures leaving the Minions depressed. A brave Minion travels to 60s New York to find a new evil boss, who turns out to be Scarlet Overkill (Sandra Bullock).

Cake Bookworm

The House Of Hidden Mothers, **Meera Syal, published in hardback by Doubleday, £14.99 (ebook £9.02)**

ACTRESS and writer Meera Syal has set the literary bar high for herself. Her first novel, *Anita And Me*, is now a national curriculum set text; her second, *Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee*, was made into a BBC drama. This third novel addresses late parenthood, which Syal experienced, and surrogacy, which she has not. It centres on Shyama, aged 44 (the age Syal was when she had her son), a British Indian woman who yearns for a child with partner Toby, 10 years her junior.

They've tried IVF but her eggs are shot, so they pursue surrogacy, which takes them to India.

Mala becomes the surrogate and when the couple discover she has an abusive husband they decide to bring her back to the UK.

Meanwhile, Shyama's 19-year-old daughter Tara from a previous marriage is raped by a fellow student and doesn't report it.

Beautifully written, Syal's detail of the cultural divides between Indian generations, the quirks, customs, traditions and attitudes, can only come from one who has been immersed in both cultures.

Our Souls At Night, **Kent Haruf, published in hardback by Picador, £12.99 (ebook £6.47)**

KENT Haruf's final novel, completed before he died in November last year, is a poignant swansong for this much-loved American writer.

In it, neighbours Addie Moore and Louis Waters, both widowed and in their twilight years, have been alone for some time and Addie for one would like some companionship, to overcome the stifling loneliness and isolation of later life, and Louis agrees. So the two begin a wonderfully pure friendship that gives them both something to treasure.

Tender and heartfelt, this is a delicately bittersweet novel, compounded by the sense Haruf seems to be aware this is his farewell.

The Naked Surgeon: The Power And Peril Of Transparency In Medicine, **Samer Nashef, published in paperback by Scribe, £14.99**

SAMER Nashef has always been fascinated by the power of numbers to foster transparency in medicine. As a young surgeon, he combed through the paper filing systems of his hospital to show which colleagues had the worst patient outcomes for aorta surgery. Cardiac surgery has never been safer, says Nashef, but he tells you what you need to ask: has your surgeon recently got divorced? Is he about to go on holiday? Did her patient this morning live or die? The answers indicate how likely your surgeon will be to take risks when it's your turn. A readable and generous book.

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Tim Paine's 83 could not quite bring Banbury victory

Banbury just short in bid

Paine and Tew's superb innings in vain

CRICKET

BANBURY came close to pulling off a great run chase in a high-scoring draw in the Serious Cricket Home Counties Premier League at High Wycombe on Saturday.

They fell short of their 276-3 target, finishing on 263-9 wickets down after a dramatic chase.

Wycombe's innings was reduced to 54 overs, but a superb century from Banbury old boy Nathan Hawkes (107) saw the hosts post a big total.

Banbury's reply was led by former Australian Test keeper Tim Paine, who hit 83 and Ian Tew, who blasted a quickfire 72.

However, rain just before tea denied Banbury one over which proved crucial.

Two sixes in an over from Tew left Banbury needing 125 off 15 overs.

This became 104 off ten, but Tew then started blasting the ball to all parts, with Wycombe at one stage having all nine fielders on the boundary.

Banbury's hopes suffered a big blow when Tew was run out. They continued the chase and needed 18 from the final over, but fell just short after a fine chase.

The result saw Banbury, who entertain Reading this Saturday, drop to fourth place.

HOME COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE
Division 1

	P	W	D	L	A	B	Pts
Henley	7	7	0	0	0	0	150
H Wycombe	7	4	1	1	1	25	111
Slough	7	4	0	0	1	10	101
Banbury	**7**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**10**	**100**
Reading	7	3	1	3	0	24	84
Horspath	7	2	1	3	1	24	70
Burnham	7	2	0	5	0	23	68
Tring Park	7	3	0	4	1	21	67
Harefield	7	1	0	5	1	26	52
Oxford	7	0	0	5	2	29	41

United duo have signed for Didcot

BANBURY United players Marvin Martin and Leigh Bedwell joined fellow Evo-Stik Southern League club Didcot Town, writes MATTHEW BRUCE.

Former Oxford United scholar Martin won promotion from the Southern League Premier Division with Oxford City in 2012.

The defender made 51 appearances in all competitions for relegated Banbury last season.

Former Swindon Town keeper Bedwell was an ever-present for the Puritans with 52 starts.

Joint Didcot boss Ian Concannon believes signing the pair from their Division 1 South & West rivals will help the Railwaymen become promotion contenders next season.

He said: "We want to get Didcot out of this league."

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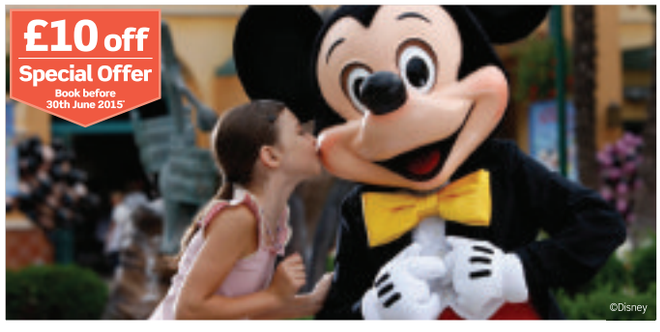

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

If you think you can you will and if you think you can't you won't. Remember these words this week Aries and let them spur you on to push past the competition. Education is well starred and this would be a great week to enter into learning for your career and future. Give me a call now so we can sort out 'that' misunderstanding in your love life.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Plans you lay this week are the basis for a really exciting future and one which I know you wish you could have started months ago. Still, better late than never Taurus, so try to look at life as if the glass is half full please. Someone you thought was not on your side in business is about to pleasantly surprise you with their support. Ring now to hear how impromptu holidays are predicted.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

The moon makes you more emotional than usual this weekend and you need to be careful that you don't go about accusing close ones of things you have no real proof of, or you could end up looking red faced and embarrassed. Paperwork filled in this week helps you get closer to a dream you've had for years. Ring now to hear how you get more freedom from family from Thursday too.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Financial mistakes and mishaps are likely, so try not to be slapdash but make sure you check all facts and figures carefully. Exciting news is on it's way which gives you the chance to look forward to this summer more than you did your last. Silly health worries must be sorted to make your life more straightforward, even if they prove costly. Ring now so I can help set the world to rights.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

All of the hard work you put into your life at the beginning of the year is about to pay dividends and you no longer feel the need to rely on others for help. You know you can do what's required yourself. News of a new coupling in your circle brings surprise and gossip but live and let live. You may need understanding in love yourself soon. Ring now so I can tell you all about it.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Keep clear of those you know can upset you this week or you are going to turn what should be a productive week into a frustrating one. Your career is changing in the months ahead and attempts you make to shape it this week will be well received by those with power. Arguments turn to passion this weekend. Ring now to hear more about this very emotive seven days.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Careful you are not being too generous with younger people around you who have already taken advantage of you twice this month. Set standards so they know they need to show you respect. Someone you thought did not want to help you financially pleasantly surprises you, but just make sure you check the small print and negotiate! Ring now to shake up your social aspects.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

For a sign who is usually so secretive, you are being very open this week and this may have a lot to do with the fact that you've heard some news which pleases you. Romance is well starred but you'll have to say exactly what you want or risk getting something completely different. Give me a call to hear why I know you leave this week a far more mature sign than you entered it.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You seem to be making decisions based on what others tell you that you should do rather than what you actually want for yourself. Stop and take in the view Sagittarius. It can change everything for you this year if you do. New friends make for a better social life and one which sees you having more fun than you have in years. Ring now to hear how flirtations turn more than a little serious.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are set for much excitement and fun as you've learnt to be yourself at last and to let your hair down. You no longer worry about how things look, but you're thinking about how you feel, and about time too. Small trips and short dates make for some major decisions in your life where you finally feel confident about where you're going. Ring now for more on this life changing time.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

I want you to really be there for the older faces in your life this week. They have been lacking time and attention from you. There is so much you can do to make their lives a better place to be and I think you know this deep down inside, it's just been a very emotive subject for you to face. You can do this! Ring now to hear how the Sun gives you power to control financial deals.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

With several new challenges ahead of you this week, it's important you don't hesitate. You need to look and feel confident. Financial temptations to spend must be avoided as you'll need any extra cash you can find next week for a change which can help you move into a better phase and chapter of your life. Have faith in younger faces and they'll surprise you. Ring now so I can explain more.

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By. W.D

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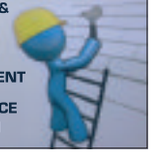

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treetopscomltd@btinternet.com

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MAN with a VAN
Luton van, houses, student flats, offices.
removals also rubbish cleared.
no jobs to small ask for les on
(01865) 872372 or 07967886330

Cherwell Community & Voluntary Service
If you have furniture or household items you no longer require we - collect for a small fee and recycle for the benefit of other people - phone for collection.
We also do total house clearances for **£100**.
The Furniture Store
14 Lower Cherwell Street
Banbury, OX16 5AY
Charity no.1126609
Tel: 01295 267741

4 BUSINESS

Business Services

Can you afford not to advertise your business?
Call our team today
01865 425301

5 ENTERTAINMENTS

Entertainments

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT!
Call the entertainments team
01865 425301

SELL YOUR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS UNDER £100 FREE!

6 HOLIDAYS

Holidays

Do you need to fill that holiday accommodation?
Call our classified team on
01865 420301

7 EDUCATION

TO ADVERTISE ONLINE
banburycake.co.uk/advertise

8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

To advertise your public notice call the team on
01865 425558
reception@nqo.com

Call our team to advertise your unwanted items.
CLASSIFIEDS
01865 420420

It's the FREE WAY to sell your unwanted items

Sell any item under £100 FREE*

Prices should be £99.99 or less.
Max 5 items advertised in paper for 3 nights.
Two insertions in the Oxford Mail and one insertion in a weekly title of your choice - The Oxford Times, Bicester Advertiser, Herald Series, Banbury Cake and Witney Gazette.

IT'S EASY

COUPON: *just fill in the form...*

Coupon max 20 words. Only 1 item per coupon. No photocopies.

FREE ADS are for **PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY**

Name .....
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.....
.....
Postcode .....
Tel No .....
Email .....

Please tick here ☐ to confirm you are a PRIVATE advertiser.
Post or take your coupon to the following office:
Newsquest Oxfordshire,
Reception Team, Osney Mead,
Oxford OX2 0EJ

*We cannot accept cars/motorcycles, livestock, any form of secondhand safety equipment, private addresses in advertisements, fruit machines & firearms

PHONE: *Just call...*
0906 7390303
Calls charged at £1 per minute

TEXT: *Send via mobile*
Text a message to OXADS PLUS AD

Simply type OXADS PLUS AD followed by a space then the text for your advert (max 150 characters). Send the text message to 80360. Your order usually takes a few seconds dependant on network congestion. Any delays should be checked by your service provider. We guarantee your advert will appear for 3 nights and within 2 days of receiving the text. As well as placing your order you will receive a message on receipt of your advert which will be charged at £1.50 + your network operators charge for the text.

FREE ADS
The FREE WAY to sell unwanted items

9 RECRUITMENT

BICESTER BASED COMPANY REQUIRE

SERVICE CO-ORDINATORS

FULL TIME POSITION - 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday to call handle, maintain computerised database records, route plan engineers and process paperworks for supermarket contracts nationally

PART TIME POSITION - 5 hours to suit daily Monday - Friday to assist with duties above but primarily to organise maintenance programming

Please apply with CV to brian@icecoolservices.com

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Duties include litterpicking & sweeping kerbs.
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CLASSIFIEDS
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FANTASTIC CAREERS IN SALES

We are a UK leader in providing local and regional news, information and more through a network of trusted media brands with widespread coverage over UK mainland households. These roles will see you working at the cutting edge of the company's commercial operation...

MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE

GOOD BASIC + MONTHLY BONUS

• Enthusiasm • Tenacity • Ambition • Personal Drive • Fun

We have an excellent opportunity for professional people, with sales experience, an excellent telephone manner, a good understanding of the internet and a strong desire to succeed.

We offer the right candidates: Excellent basic salary plus high bonus potential • Comprehensive ongoing training • Friendly and supportive working environment • Career development plan

Successful applicants will be working within a friendly, professional team within our busy call centre. The sales role involves advising prospective and existing clients on how our wide portfolio of products both in print and online, can help them reach their target markets.

You will need to be hardworking and determined to succeed in order to achieve your targets by constantly delivering a high standard of creativity and service. You will have a strong work ethic and be organised in order to meet the standards and deadlines of a busy advertising department.

Ready to meet the challenge?
If you believe you have what it takes to be part of our successful team please forward your CV to brand@nqo.com

Newsquest (Oxfordshire Ltd) is an equal opportunities employer and invites applications from all members of the community. We offer a no smoking policy. Newsquest operates a Workplace group personal plan in compliance with the employer pension duties under the Pension Act 2008.

DIRECT DELIVERY CO-ORDINATOR

Part time 20 hours per week Monday to Friday

A vacancy has arisen in the Newspaper Sales Department to assist in the recruitment and organisation of a network of Direct Delivery Agents.

You will be responsible for managing the Direct Delivery Agents in a specified geographical area. Responsibilities include managing and recruiting Agents, dealing with customer complaints and ensuring all customers receive a high level of Customer Service.

ARE YOU: OUTGOING? SELF MOTIVATED? CUSTOMER FOCUSED?

- *Good knowledge of Microsoft Office is desirable, including Word and Excel.*
- *Full UK driving license*

THE PACKAGE:

- Staff Restaurant
- Free car parking
- 6.6 weeks annual holiday including Bank Holidays (Pro rata)
- Newsquest operates a workplace group personal pension plan, in compliance with the employer pension duties under the Pensions Act 2008.

Oxford Mail
The Oxford Times

Applicants should send their CV and covering letter to
Eddie Denton,
Newspaper Sales Manager,
Osney Mead,
Oxford, OX2 0EJ or
email: edenton@nqo.com

Marketing and Promotional Opportunity

A vacancy has arisen for a Territory Manager within our Newspaper Sales Department to assist in the sales and promotions of our well known and respected community focused newspapers including the Oxford Mail and The Oxford Times.

The ideal candidate will be outgoing, self motivated and customer focused.

Working 37.5 hours Monday to Friday, you will be responsible for managing the sales of those titles in a specified geographical area. Sales are achieved in retail outlets by forging strong working relationships with Store Managers and decision makers, increasing brand awareness, establishing key product positioning and carrying out in store promotional activity.

You will also be responsible for the recruitment and management of home delivery agents within your territory to ensure a high level of customer service is achieved.

The successful candidate will require excellent communication skills, have an organised approach and be logical in your thinking. You will be confident in using your own initiative and contribute to team targets. Good knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential, including Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Salary - £15,000
basic plus bonus structure, company car and mobile phone.

Staff Restaurant • 6.6 weeks annual leave (including bank holidays)
Workplace Pension Scheme

Applicants should send their CV and covering letter to
Eddie Denton,
Newspaper Sales Manager,
Osney Mead,
Oxford, OX2 0EJ or
email: **edenton@nqo.com**

Oxford Mail **The Oxford Times**

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CakeMotoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

News in brief

- Personalising your car too much could make it hard to sell or cut its value, according to valuations experts at Glass's Guide. The 'trade bible' points to the Vauxhall Adam and Citroen DS3 as examples of cars where the wrong colour and trim choices at the point of first sale can ruin the car's future value. Dealers are being urged to stop enthusiastic buyers from making the wrong decisions at the ordering stage. Rupert Pontin, Head of Valuations at Glass's, explained: "Factors such as colour have always had a large impact on residual values but the trend towards increasing visual personalisation is magnifying the effect. You could have two Vauxhall Adams that are the same on paper but, in the metal, are clearly hundreds or thousands of pounds apart in value.
- Toyota has begun production of the all-new Avensis in what has been described as an "unprecedented" challenge and a "unique achievement". The Avensis, in saloon and 'Tourer' estate body styles and with petrol and diesel engines, joins the 2015 Auris in production at the Burnaston plant in Derbyshire.

Vitara small but perfectly formed

Auto facts

Model: Suzuki Vitara 1.6 DDiS SZ5 Allgrip
Price: £21,299
Insurance group: 17E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 50.4mpg
Top speed: 112mph
Length: 417.5cm/164.4in
Width: 177.5cm/70in
Luggage capacity: 13.2 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 9.4 gallons/47 litres
CO2 emissions: 130g/km
Warranty: Three years/100,000 kilometres

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

SUZUKI has managed to create an optical illusion with the latest incarnation of one of its best-known models.

At first glance, the new five-door Vitara looks meatier and much more macho than its predecessor. In fact, the compact sport utility vehicle's dimensions are smaller.

Another conundrum solved by the Japanese car maker has been to offer a simple choice of engines and specification, while at the same time offering a much higher degree of personalisation.

The new Vitara is available with a simple choice of either 1.6-litre petrol or 1.6-litre DDiS engine, both developing about 120 horsepower.

Ten body colours are on offer and interior trim details, from the instrument panel to the ventilation rings, can be personalised in turquoise, orange, white, or piano black.

Both petrol and diesel models are available in SZ4, SZ-T and SZ5 grades, priced from £13,999 for the 1.6 petrol SZ4 with two-wheel-drive, up to £21,299 for the top-of-the-range 1.6 DDiS SZ5 Allgrip.

The new Suzuki Vitara has been redesigned to match city-living needs

I spent a morning earlier this month putting the Vitara through its paces both on the road in north Somerset and in the depths of a quarry near Cheddar Gorge.

Off-road the Vitara behaved immaculately, with clever electronic four-wheel-drive, hill descent control and hill-start assist making scuttling up and down stone-covered tracks and negotiating potentially dodgy terrain a piece of cake.

The Vitara is tauter, quieter and more comfortable than ever.

The petrol engine version is punchy, pokey and whisper quiet and the level of equipment has taken a leap up. Standard equipment now ranges from Bluetooth and DAB radio, to seven airbags including a driver's knee airbag.

The safety equipment has helped the Vitara achieve a rating as one of Europe's safest cars according to independent crash testing results from Euro NCAP, receiving the maximum five-star rating. It is also the first compact SUV to earn five stars in the more rigorous 2015 Euro NCAP testing programme, which further reinforces the exemplary level of safety of the new model.

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oxfordmail.co.uk/advertise

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2007 07	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME.** 3 Doors. Dark blue..Local car. 2 Owners. Approximately ONLY 36000 recorded miles. Alloys. PAS. Electric windows. Central locking. Radio/CD. Sold with a full service a new MOT and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.	£3,750
2004 04	**TOYOTA YARIS T-SPRIT AUTOMATIC.** Metallic Dark Blue. 3 Door. Full service history, with approximately only 55000 miles. Local car. AUTOMATIC. Electric windows.PAS. Central locking. Radio/CD. Alloys. Aircon. Superb small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear	£2,695
2005 05	**CITROEN VTR 1.6** 5 door hatchback. Black. PAS.Electric windows. Central locking. Radio/CD. Aircon. Local car. Good condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.	£2,250
2003 53	**RENAULT KANGOO 1.2** Authentique WHEEL CHAIR CONVERSION. Silver. Local vehicle. Approximately only 65000 recorded miles. Very good condition throughout. PAS. Electric windows. Central locking. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.	£2,295
2004 04	**PEUGEOT 206SE 1.4cc.** Silver. 5 door hatchback. Local car. Full service history, approximately 72000 recorded miles. Aircon. Electric windows. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Very nice condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.	£1,995
2001 51	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTOMATIC.** 5 door. Silver. Local car. Central locking. Electric windows. PAS. Radio/CD. Very tidy for it's year. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.	£1,550
2004 04	**FIAT PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA.** 5 doors. Blue. Great little car. Central locking. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very roomy and economical small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear	£1,450
2003 03	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 PETROL ELEGANCE. 7 SEATER.** Silver, MOT until March 2016.	£1,395
2001 51	**NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE. 5 doors.** Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.	£1,050
1997 P	**TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE**, Turquoise Blue, Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear	£995

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63 Ploughley Road, Arncott, Bicester OX25 1NY (3 miles off the A41 from Bicester)
Tel: 01869 253933 www.sandsmotorsbicester.co.uk

BMC & Leyland Show

Join a celebration of motoring greats

ENTHUSIASTS can once again celebrate a host of British marques when the Heritage Motor Centre (HMC) hosts the "BMC & Leyland Show" on Sunday, July 5.

The show was launched in 2013 to celebrate the marques that were produced by the British Motor Corporation including vehicles produced by British Leyland, the Rover group and pre-BMC days.

With 800 vehicles on display the show highlights the enormity of vehicles produced under the BMC marque. There will also be rare BMC vehicles on display from the HMC's reserve collection. This year is the 40th anniversary of the launch of the Leyland Princess and it is hoped that two of the prototypes will also be on display.

There will also be a non Mini Concours event running alongside the traditional Mini Concours event with a £100 prize for each winner.There will be the traditional convoy from the Oxford Mini plant and a Longbridge convoy from MG Longbridge, both arriving at the Heritage Motor Centre in the morning.

Tom Caren, show manager, said "This show continues to increase in popularity and it's great to see our third show look set to be even bigger and better than before. The show is a real enthusiast's event aimed at those celebrating our cherished British marques. For many the show will be a great trip down memory lane."

Vehicle owners advance tickets cost £7 for the driver and one passenger of the registered show vehicle and £8 per person for any additional passengers. Advance public show tickets cost £8 for adults and £5 for children (5-16 years, under 5's are free). Public prices on the day are £12 adult, £10 concession and £8 children. All tickets include entry to the Museum. Camping is available on Saturday, July 4. Price per pitch, tent or caravan, is £25 advance and £35 on the day.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 01295 256111

9 RECRUITMENT

Newsquest Oxfordshire is currently recruiting for a new position of

ADVERTISING BUSINESS CONTROLLER

Salary circa £25k

Based in our Oxford office, we require an Advertising Business Controller to assist the commercial team. The role, which is a non selling role, would encompass business analysis including revenue performance and forecasting, market share and trends, agency, client and category analysis, competitive research, pricing, management reporting and in depth market knowledge analysis including, territory analysis and resource mapping.

An ability to multitask, prioritise workflow, communicate effectively as well as working with a team are essential skills required for this position.

In return we will offer the successful candidates, a competitive salary, and 5 weeks annual leave plus Bank Holidays.

To apply, send your CV to:

Jackie.parker@oxfordshire.newsquest.co.uk

Newsquest (Oxfordshire) Ltd is an equal opportunities employer and invites applications from all members of the community.

We operate a no smoking policy.

Newsquest operates a Workplace group personal pension plan, in compliance with the employer pension duties under the Pensions Act 2008.

Oxford Mail
The Oxford Times

HERALD Witney Gazette Bicester Advertiser CAKE NEWSQUEST

10 MOTORS

Motors Trade

SPECIAL OFFER
6 nights advertising in the Oxford Mail for only £20 INCLUDING VAT

SELL YOUR CAR

Your advert will appear in the Oxford Mail for a total of 6 insertions and one week online for a total price of £20 including vat, for a display size advert 7cm depth x 2.7cms wide. Additional weekly titles can be included for an additional £2 including vat.

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Online: oxfordmail.co.uk/advertise

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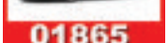

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11 PROPERTY

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*Source: Continental Research 2008: 57% of respondents stated that they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy/rent. Local media: local newspapers, websites and supplements.

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